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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): HIRABAYASHI, et al.
Serial No.: 09/941,769
Filed: August 30, 2001
For: DNA ANALYSIS SYSTEM
Group: 1634
Examiner: A. Chakrabarti

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 11, 2003

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated March 11, 2003.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 14, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 as follows:

A liquid sample contains various kinds of DNA fragments prepared by the sample treatment part 11. The liquid sample is kept in a sample-retaining vessel such as a 384-hole microtiter plate. On the other hand, a cleaning fluid is stored in the container 12 and is then passed into the sampling part 15 through a capillary tube 13 at a predetermined flow rate. In the sampling part 15, the sample-retaining vessel is transferred from the sample treatment part 11 into position. A sampling operation is then initiated by a control signal from the control unit 31. The sample may be introduced from the sampling part 15 into the ionization part 21 by passing